THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat has reported an increase in the population of Neel Gai and Black buck in Mehsana District of Gujarat. In the year 1999-2000 the population of Neel Gai and Black buck has been estimated to be 989 and 6479 respectively. These free ranging population cause damage to the agricultural crops. Twenty complaints of damage to crops by these animals have been reported since 1999.

(c) The steps taken to prevent the menace are as follows :

1. The Chief Wild Life Warden are empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) act, 1972 to permit hunting of wild animals that have become dangerous to human life or property, including standing crops.

2. The State Government has introduced a scheme for fencing of farmlands on 50% subsidy basis.

3. The farmers are encourged to make use of fire crackers and drum beating to scared away the animals.

Computerised rail reservation at Sivaganga

*556. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sivaganga and other adjacent Railway stations in Tamil Nadu do not have computerised reservation centres:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when computerised reservations centres would be provided there?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, a work for provision of computerised reservation facilities at Sivaganga railway station has been sanctioned in the Annual Budget 2002-03. Computerised reservation facilities have also been sanctioned at Manamadurai and Paramakudi railway station in the Annual Budget 2002-03 which are located at a distance of 20 km and 45 km respectively from Sivaganga. Beside above approvals, these facilities are already available at Karaikkudi railway station located at a distance of 41 km from Sivaganga.

Other adjacent Stations do not qualify for provision of these facilities as per the latest computerised reservation policy of Indian Railways.

(c) Computerised reservation facility at Sivaganga, Manamadurai and Paramakudi is likely to be opened in the current financial year.

Recycling of Scrap Steel

*557. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planing to set-up a new autonomous body to promote recycling of scrap steel, particularly those generated from ship-breaking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have drawn guidelines for ensuring quality standard from recycling industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) and (d) Government have not drawn any guidelines on quality standard. However, Bureau of Indian Standard has published a Standard (IS 2549: 1994) Code for classification of processed ferrous scrap which includes re-rollable steel scrap, used and salvaged including breaking of old ships suitable for re-rolling.

Shortage of Flat Cars

*558. SHRI LAJPAT RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways were found wanting in providing flat cars to the Army for transporting heavy tanks and guns to the borders in the recent past;

(b) Whether it was on account of shortage of flat cars with the Railways or there were some other reasons for this;

(c) whether this shortage has been made good; and

(d) if so, what are the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.